

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 CIAE-00

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PGOV, PO

SUBJ: ESPIRITO SANTOS RELEASED

REF: (A) LISBON 3319; (B) STATE 163983

1. SIX MEMBERS OF ESPIRITO SANTOS SILVA FAMILY WERE RELEASED JULY 25 ON BAIL OF \$20,000 EACH. NAMES WERE SAME AS LISTED REFTEL A AND PARA 1, REFTEL B (NOTAL). RE POINT RAISED PARA 2, REFTEL B (NOTAL), WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY RELIABLE BANKING SOURCES THAT BERNARDO MANUEL PINHEIRO ESPIRITO SANTO SILVA WAS NOT ARRESTED. AS SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE ASSURED US THAT ALL MEMBERS OF FAMILY HAVE BEEN RELEASED, OTHER NAMES MAY HAVE BEEN DUPLICATIONS.

2. THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME THESE SIX HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND THEN RELEASED. ORIGINALLY ARRESTED ON MARCH 11 BY MILITANT BANKWORKERS, THEY WERE RELEASED ON GROUNDS THAT THEIR ARREST HAD NOT BEEN LEGAL. THEY WERE LATER RE-ARRESTED. ALTHOUGH
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NO SPECIFIC CHARGES WERE PUBLISHED AT THAT TIME, LINKS WITH COUP ATTEMPT WERE IMPLIED. HOWEVER, ON JUNE 10 ARRESTEES

WERE ARRAIGNED ON CHARGES OF PRESUMED ECONOMIC CRIMES (REFTEL A).

3. LATEST RELEASE HAS BEEN STRONGLY CONDEMNED BY SPOKESMEN FOR WORKERS UNION OF BANCO ESPIRITO SANTO E COMERCIAL (BES). JULY 30 "PRIMEIRO DE JANEIRO" IN OPORTO CARRIED COMMUNIQUE FROM SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) CELL IN BES BRANCH IN OPORTO. COMMUNIQUE BLAMED CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS--ESPECIALLY ABSENCE OF PS JUSTICE MINISTER SALGADO ZENHA--FOR REVERSAL OF BES WORKERS' DECISIONS TO ARREST ESPIRITO SANTOS. LISBON BES WORKERS UNION SIMULTANEOUSLY HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY, AMONG OTHERS, JUDGE WHO ISSUED RELEASE ORDERS.

4. JUDGE SAID THAT, IN FACE OF EXISTING (ALTHOUGH OBSOLETE IN "REVOLUTIONARY REALITY") LAWS AND INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RELEASE ESPIRITO SANTOS. WORKER SPOKESMEN CONDEMNED RELEASE, DECLARED THAT PRESS CONFERENCE MARKED START OF "POPULAR JUSTICE" FOR FAMILY, AND INDICATED THEIR INTENTIONS TO OPEN NEW PROCEEDINGS, ARMED WITH THICK BOOK OF EVIDENCE. (LISBON 1475, 1985.)

5. COMMENT: ESPIRITO SANTO FAMILY, STRONGLY IDENTIFIED WITH PREVIOUS REGIME, REMAINS SUBJECT OF LEFT-WING OPPROBRIUM. THUS FREEDOM OF THESE RELEASEES MAY BE SHORT-LIVED. SIMILAR CASE INVOLVED MUCH LESS PROMINENT TORRALTA DIRECTORS JOSE AND AGOSTINHO DA SILVA, WHO WERE RELEASED ON BAIL IN LATE APRIL ONLY TO BE RE-ARRESTED 11 DAYS LATER AFTER VEHEMENT PROTESTS FROM TORRALTA WORKERS (LISBON 2460, 3117). CARLUCCI

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